

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 EUR-12 USIE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 ACDA-05 /074 W

----- 112129

O R 011210Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1571

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 1291

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, PK

SUBJ: AFGHAN-PAK RELATIONS

REF: A) STATE 46324; B) KABUL 1253

1. I TALKED TO WAHEED ABDULLAH MARCH 1 AND MADE APPROACH OUTLINED PARAGRAPH 3, REF A. ABDULLAH SEEMED MILDLY SURPRISED THAT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) STATEMENT HAD CAUSED SUCH A SPLASH. HE INDICATED HIS BELIEF THAT BASIC U.S. - AFGHAN FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WOULD CONTINUE.

2. AS INDICATED REF B, WE BELIEVE MFA STATEMENT, IN TERMS OF VERBAL HYPERBOLE CURRENTLY IN USE ON AIR WAVES AND IN PRESS, WAS RELATIVELY MILD. IN ADDITION TO MOHAMMAD NAIM'S COMMENTS TO SENATOR PERCY, DR RAWAM FARHADI (FORMER HIGH MFA OFFICIAL -- NOW WRITING FOR GOVERNMENT PAPERS) TOLD ME THAT STATEMENT WAS "LEAST THAT COULD BE ISSUED, CONSIDERING "PUSHTUN" PRESSURE ON MFA, AND PREDICTED THAT ANY EFFECT ON PRESENT GOOD U.S. - AFGHAN RELATIONS WOULD BE TEMPORARY AND OF LITTLE CONSEQUENCE.

3. OVER PAST FEW DAYS WE HAVE HAD NUMBER OF INCIDENTS
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INVOLVING OVER-ZEALOUS POLICE CHECKS ON US/AID FAMILIES

SERVANTS' WORK PERMITS. THE "CHECKS" INCLUDED, IN SOME CASES LECTURES ON DANGERS FOR AFGHANS ON ASSOCIATING WITH "FOREIGNERS" AND REMINDERS TO SUBMIT REGULAR REPORTS TO POLICE ON ACTIVITIES OF THEIR EMPLOYEES. AT FIRST WE THOUGHT THIS MIGHT BE HARASSMENT DIRECTED AT U.S. MISSION. SUBSEQUENTLY, MANY FOREIGNERS, INCLUDING SOME EAST EUROPEANS, WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED. MFA (ABDULLAH, GHAS) EXTREMELY RESPONSIVE IN REPLY TO EMBASSY'S COMPLAINTS, SET UP A "HOT LINE" TO MINISTRY OF INTERIOR TO HANDLE COMPLAINTS AND PUT US IN TOUCH WITH TOP MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OFFICIALS. APPARENTLY OVER ZEALOUS "GOONS" (MFA DESCRIPTION) CAUSING TROUBLE BY EXCEEDING INSTRUCTIONS TO CHECK SERVANTS PAPERS.

CONSIDERING PAST HISTORY OF PROBLEMS MFA HAS HAD IN CONTROLLING COPS WITH ANTI-FOREIGN FEELINGS (E.G., VINDICTIVENESS TOWARDS CHURCH EDIFICE IN KABUL) WE CAN'T RULE OUT MORE TROUBLE. FOR TIME BEING, WE BELIEVE THERE IS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN "SERVANTS CHECKS" AND OFFICIAL U.S.A AFGHAN RELATIONS.
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